



Week 9

Wednesday 22 June

- Parent Teacher interviews

Thursday 23 June

- 9:15am Stage 2 Parish Mass
- 4:30pm Dance Fever Interschool Challenge (Years 3-6)

Friday 24 June

- Dance Fever (ES1-Yr 2 parents welcome to attend their child's lessons)

Week 10

Monday 27 June

- Pow Wow 9am-10:30am

Tuesday 28 June

- Uniform Shop **CLOSED** for stocktake.

Thursday 30 June

- 9:15am ES1 Parish Mass
- Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day (will be back by 2:30pm)
- Stages 2 & 3 Product Launch (2pm-4pm) Learning Space

Friday 1 July

- Dance Fever
- Pyjama/ Onesie Day—gold coin donation
- Term 2 ends at 3:00pm

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TERM 3—WEEK 1

Monday 18 July

- Staff Development Day

Tuesday 19 July

- Students return for Term 3
- Uniform Shop 8:30-9:30am

Staff Development Day

Monday 18 July 2016

Students do not
attend school on this day

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the half-way point of our school year! This term the staff have participated in many professional learning opportunities that have enhanced their teaching and your child's learning. These include:

- ◆ Stage 3 Reading Strategies within the Literacy Block
- ◆ Stage 3 Monash Project for Multiplicative Thinking
- ◆ Implementation Meeting on our school goals and our action plans.
- ◆ EMU Leaders – Creating Rich Tasks
- ◆ Religious Education- New Rite of Confirmation
- ◆ Religious Education- Mercy Reflection Day
- ◆ Reading Recovery- Analysis of running records and accelerating Reading and Writing
- ◆ Project Based Learning-analysis, protocols and work samples
- ◆ Child Protection & Working With Children Legislation
- ◆ PDHPE -Live Life Well
- ◆ Personalised Plans
- ◆ FACES training for Semester One Reports
- ◆ FACES training for enrolments
- ◆ Finance School Fees System
- ◆ Building Child Safe Communities— for volunteers and contractors
- ◆ WHS- Risk Assessments, Chemical Safety

And that's without listing our staff meetings at school. St Monica's is certainly a community where professional learning is valued!

Parent/Teacher Interviews

It is that important time of the year when parents have an opportunity to talk with their child's teacher after receiving the Semester One Report.

Thank you to all the parents who have made an appointment to meet with their child's teacher. Year 2 parents will have their interview next term.

The interviews are important and give a clear indication to your child/children that their education is important and that we work together as a team to help ensure that they work to reach their full potential.

Children learn in different ways. All teachers want to see each student treated as an individual and it is important that your child's performance is not compared to other students or to their siblings.

Prior to the interview please talk to your child and find out if they have any concerns about their learning or relationships. Let your child know that you intend to work with their teacher. Be ready to collaborate with your child's teacher. They will be positive and will always have your child's best interest in mind.

Do not be afraid to ask questions if you do not understand something or require further clarification. Not understanding can quickly lead to misunderstanding.

Some matters you may like to discuss in the interview could include:

- Your child's strengths.
- Areas for development— Is your child working to his/her capacity?
- How your child interacts with his/her peers.
- How effectively your child participates in class discussions/ learning groups.
- Ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.
- Changed circumstances at home that may have some impact on your child's school performance.

Teachers are meeting with many parents, so it helps when everyone is on time for their interview. Try not to use up precious time on unrelated issues. If you need longer than the allotted 15 minutes for the interview, please arrange another interview time.

After the interview, congratulate your child for all the positive comments and successes that are discussed and help them plan to develop areas that have been identified for further attention.

Research shows that what most parents want is for their child to be happy, to come home with a positive attitude to learning, and to experience realistic success.

As this is the last newsletter for the term I would like to thank the teachers and teacher assistants for their dedication in doing whatever is needed to assist our students to reach their potential. I thank them also for their willingness to adapt and learn new ways to improve their teaching.

Thank you also to Mrs Cattermole and Mrs Abood for their efficiency in the office and for the wonderful care that they give the children at St Monica's School.

Staffing Update

Last Friday we appointed a teacher for Year 2 for the remainder of the year- Miss Jamal Al-Chalouhi. I know that you will make her feel very welcome.

I would sincerely like to thank the following teachers for the dedication and professionalism they brought to their role as teachers of Year 2 over the last two terms.

Term 2—Ms Maria Longo and Mrs Paula Birch

Term 1—Mrs Loretta Farrelly and Mrs Eva Turkington

During Term 3 Mrs Wendy Paley (Stage 3) will be taking long service leave. We welcome Mrs Melinda Callaghan who will replace her from Monday to Thursday each week with Mrs Mason continuing to teach each Friday.

Mrs Ungsuprasert has reduced the numbers of days that she works at St Monica's to two days (Thursday & Friday) for the remainder of the year. We welcome Mrs Loretta Farrelly who will replace Mrs Ungsuprasert on Tuesday and Wednesday each week.

Yours sincerely,

Louise O'Donnell
Principal

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS—Last day to order

The **Whole School Photo**, **Leadership Team/School Ambassadors' photo** and the **Year 6 photo (\$17 each)** are available for purchase. The photos are on display outside the school office or you can visit www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code **FEF 88K ZMQ** to view and purchase the photos. *Orders can only be placed online. Offer is available until today Wednesday 22 June 2016.*



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Cattermole on the birth of her first grandson, Levi, who was born on Sunday 5 June.

SYMPATHY

St Monica's community extends its sympathy to the Siemsen family (Mia ES1) on the passing of Mia's great-grandfather. Please keep the Siemsen family in your prayers

WHOOPING COUGH—STAGE 3

There has been a reported case of Whooping Cough in **Stage 3**. Please visit the website link below and if your child is showing any of the listed symptoms please see your doctor **immediately**.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx>



STAGE 2 SOCCER GALA DAY

Thursday 30 June (Week 10) Students will return by 2:30pm. More details to follow.

STAGE 2 AND STAGE 3 PRODUCT LAUNCH

Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be holding their Product Launches on **Thursday 30 June (Week 10)** in their Stage Learning Space between 2pm and 4pm. Parents invited to attend.

PYJAMA / ONESIE DAY

Pyjama/Onesie Day will be held on **Friday 1 July** (last day of Term 2). All students are invited to come to school in their Pyjamas/Onesies and their sports shoes. Please bring a gold coin donation. Please see page 6 for more details.

TALENT QUEST

Term 3, Week 4—Thursday 11 August. More details to follow.



CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to **Lachlan Roberts (Stage 3)** who placed 38th in the 3km State Cross Country race which was held at Eastern Creek last Friday 17 June. Well done Lachlan!
- Congratulations to ex-student **Mattheas Noonan** who received the Principal's Award in Year 7. Well done!

UNIFORM SHOP CLOSED FOR STOCKTAKE

Please note the Uniform Shop will be **CLOSED** for stocktake on **Tuesday 28 June (Week 10)**.

DANCE FEVER INTERSCHOOL CHALLENGE—Thursday 23 June 2016

(for Students in Years 3—6)

Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush

For Stage 2 and 3 Parents.

Please find below a list of clothing requirements for the **Dance Fever Interschool Challenge** which will be held tomorrow **Thursday 23 June** at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush.

SHOWDANCE

BOYS AND GIRLS

- Black Pants
- White Button-Up Shirt (long-sleeve)
- Black School Shoes
- Black Fingerless Gloves (*if possible*)

BALLROOM DANCING

BOYS: (can be the same as the Showdance clothing)

- Long pants
- Button-Up Shirt (long-sleeve)
- Black Shoes

GIRLS: Party Dress (no high-heeled shoes)

THE SCHOOL HAS THE BANDANA UNDER CONTROL. **NO NEED TO PURCHASE A BANDANA.**

Please refer to the original note on the School Website under School Notes (Stage 2 or Stage 3) for more information regarding catering and parking.

Dance Fever—ES1—Year 2

Parents of students in ES1-Year 2 are invited to attend their Dance Fever lesson on Friday 24 June.

11:50am—12:20pm (ES1 & Year 1) 12:20pm—12:50pm (Year 2)

Building Child Safe Communities – New procedures reminder for volunteers

Volunteers make a significant contribution to students and our community.

As part of our new 'Building Child Safe Communities' initiatives, we request the following from volunteers:

Step 1: Complete the 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form for each volunteer location.

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)

Step 2: Complete the online training module – required every second year.

[TRAINING MODULE](#)

These can be accessed by visiting the **Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta homepage** <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then scrolling down to 'Volunteers and Contractors – click here'.

Please contact the school if you require any assistance.

We thank all volunteers for their continued support.

Sushi Day—Thank You



Thank you to the following parents for tallying and processing the sushi orders and for assisting on the day: Trish Forsyth, Kimberley Graham, Simone Lewis, Tiff Cooper, Genevieve Smith, Rachel Emphield, Chittrakala Pun and Annika Conda.

Staff Development Days

Monday 18 July (Term 3, Week 1)

Monday 10 October (Term 4, Week 1)

Monday 19 December (Term 4, Week 11)

Tuesday 20 December (Term 4 Week 11)

Jake Chapman's Joke Corner

- Q. Why did the skeleton go on a holiday all by himself?**
A. Because he had nobody to go with.
- Q. What part of your body is the noisiest?**
A. Your ear drums.



Jose-Bernardo with our new Bishop Vincent Long at the reception after Bishop Long's installation last Thursday night.

Term 2—Upcoming Events

Week 9

Parent / Teacher Interview Week

Thursday 23 June

- * 9:15am Stage 2 Parish Mass
- * Dance Fever Challenge—Homebush (Years 3-6) 4:30pm for 5:30pm start

Friday 24 June

- * Dance Fever
(Parents of students in ES1-Year 2 are invited to attend their lesson
11:50am—12:20pm (ES1 & Year 1) 12:20pm—12:50pm (Year 2)

Week 10

Thursday 30 June

- * 9:15am ES1 Parish Mass
- * **Stage 2** Soccer Gala Day (will be back by 2:30pm)
- * **Stages 2 & 3** Product Launch (2pm-4pm) Learning Space

Friday 1 July

- * Dance Fever
- * Pyjama/ Onesie Day—Gold Coin donation
- * Term 2 ends at 3:00pm

Term 3

Week 1

Monday 18 July

- * **Staff Development Day** (students do not attend school)

Tuesday 19 July

- * School resumes for Term 3

Lost Property



Parents are asked to check the Lost Property box outside the school office (Student Entrance) prior to the end of term for items including clothing, lunch containers and drink bottles.

Any unclaimed, unlabelled items of clothing will be donated to the Uniform Shop at the end of the Term.

Parents are requested to clearly label all articles belonging to their children so that they may be returned to the correct owner. Thank you for your co-operation.

★ Pyjama / Onesie Day 2016 ★

As part of our Year 6 fundraising we are inviting ALL students to come to school in their...

PYJAMAS OR ONESIES

Pyjama / Onesie day will be held on
Friday 1st of July 2016 (Last day of Term 2)

Please bring in a Gold Coin Donation.

Year 6 students will come to your classroom to collect your donations before recess.

PLEASE NOTE: All money donated will go towards the Year 6 Fun Day.

Remember to wear your sport shoes with your pyjamas/onesie.

The day is guaranteed to be 100% fun!



2016 SEASONS FOR GROWTH

The *Seasons for Growth* school program is based on the belief that grief is normal and can be a valuable part of life and that children need to be provided with the opportunity to examine how grief, as a result of death, separation or divorce has impacted on their lives.

The program is based on research, which highlights the importance of social support in dealing with grief.

Seasons for Growth

- Assists students in understanding that the emotions associated with their losses are normal.
- Encourages the expressions of thoughts and emotions.
- Helps restores self- confidence and self-esteem.
- Develops a peer support network.

The program caters for different age levels where groups are limited to 4-6 children. The children are withdrawn from class once a week for 40 minutes. Each session is facilitated by the same Companion, and children participate in eight formal sessions, one celebration session and two 'reconnector' sessions.

The trained Companions at St Monica's this year are Mrs Sharon Boulous and Mrs Mary-Jo Mason. The children must have parental permission to attend the program.

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest from parents who believe such a program would benefit their child/children.

Please fill in the from below and return to school by Wednesday 29 June 2016.

If you have any queries about the program please feel free to contact me.

Mary-Jo Mason
Assistant Principal

✂ _____

2016—SEASONS FOR GROWTH

(*Return to Mrs Mason by Wednesday 29 June 2016*)


I am interested in my child attending the *Seasons For Growth Program* this year.

Print Parent's Name: _____

Print Child's Name: _____

Child's Homeroom: _____

Signed: _____



How to keep your child safe online

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Here are some tips for parents to keep your child safe online

BE SAFE

- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them
- Set rules and monitor to make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit
- Teach your child to tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about something they have found on the internet or received in an email
- Discuss with your child the importance of keeping personal information private. This sort of information can be used to identify or locate where they live, go to school or activities in which they are involved

BE RESPECTFUL


- Talk to your children about cyberbullying. Online communication should be responsible and respectful
- Children and adolescents who are being cyberbullied sometimes change their behaviour. If you are concerned they might be a victim of cyberbullying, talk to them and tell them you are concerned. Arrange to talk to a teacher or school counsellor
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to keep evidence. Tell them to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted
- Children and their parents can contact social media companies and ask for defamatory material to be taken down. If the material is not gone within 48 hours, a complaint can be lodged with the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner at www.esafety.gov.au

BE RESPONSIBLE

- Consider using inbuilt filters and controls on your digital devices and home network to manage your children's online access. Keep your virus protection up to date
- Talk with your child about being careful when downloading files or clicking on links. Some files or links may be harmful viruses or trying to obtain personal information
- Certain online activities (downloading illegal videos or music, plagiarism, sexting, identity theft, 'hacking' networks) are illegal and can result in criminal charges

For more information visit: www.esafety.gov.au
<http://cnadigitalcitizenship.weebly.com/for-parents.html>

CYBERWISE BE SAFE | BE RESPECTFUL | BE RESPONSIBLE


 Catholic Education
 Diocese of Parramatta

Seminar – Understanding Family Law – Two Sessions

CCSS Solo Parent Services are holding two sessions for our Seminar on “Understanding Family Law”. The seminars on the following dates will cover the topics below:

Wednesday 20th July – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Divorce/Separation and Children’s needs.

Wednesday 27th July – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Property /Settlements.

Venue for both Seminars: DAC, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown **Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm **Cost:** \$7.00 per session.

Registration Essential: Solo Parent Services - Rita - PH: 8822 2222 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

WHAT’S ON IN THE JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS -

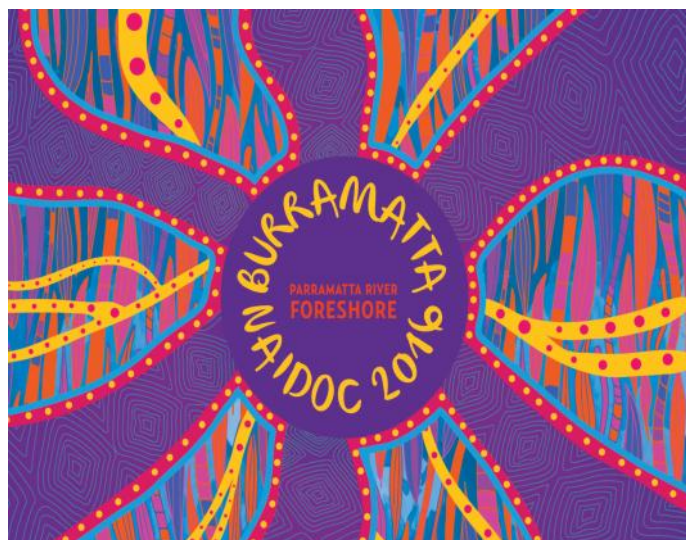
Western Sydney University PENRITH OBSERVATORY—COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Thursday 7 & Thursday 14 10am – 12 noon	School Holiday Hand-on Science Program ROCKET WORKSHOP Make and launch your own paper rocket and watch water and solid fuel rockets being launched. Parental supervision required. \$15 per person
Saturday 9 7pm – 9pm	Aboriginal Astronomy Night – NAIDOC WEEK A special night with a presentation on Aboriginal Astronomy.
Saturday 16 7pm – 9pm	School Holiday Astronomy Night – MOON SPECIAL A close up look at our neighbour including its formation and structure as well as phenomena associated with the Moon such as phases and eclipses.

The evenings will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family

Bookings are essential: To book and pay for tickets visit westernsydney.edu.au/observatory



CELEBRATE ABORIGINAL CULTURE & HERITAGE

Sunday 10 July 2016, 1pm – 6pm
Parramatta River Foreshore

Celebrate over 50,000 years of culture at the family-friendly Parramatta NAIDOC, and become immersed in Songlines. The living narrative of our nation.
discoverparramatta.com/naidoc

KRISTA PAV
RADICAL SON
MI-KAISHA
TREASURES
LAWRENCE BARLOW
JANNAWI DANCE CLAN

PLUS
SPECIAL
GUESTS

• ABORIGINAL ASTRONOMY • BLAK MARKETS
• BUSH TUCKER • WORKSHOPS • BIKE TOURS
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03-10
JULY
2016



Songlines
The living narrative
of our nation



Come and experience
the fun, friends and
adventure that Girl
Guides can offer!

In this 3 day girls-only holiday program, you'll get a chance to participate in games, outdoor activities, community service, craft and cooking. What's more, our special Girl Guides program will develop your confidence, teamwork and leadership skills in a fun and exciting way!

Who Open to all girls 7–10 years old

When 9am–4pm, 4–6 July

Where Northmead Girl Guide Hall,
LOT 22 Elizabeth Crescent,
Northmead

Cost \$90 for three days

Register now: www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

Enquiries e: bronwyn.hughes@girlguides-nswact.org.au, or
ph: 8396 5200



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Quality investment in your child's future

Would your child like to learn Guitar or Keyboard?

Please email: ariamusicschool@gmail.com Phone: 0402 780 130

Qualified, friendly teachers encourage serious musical skills in a fun learning environment. Group classes at school \$23:10 (incl GST) per lesson. Individual tuition is also available.

Guitar Classes!

Days: **Wednesday** lunchtime

Time: 12:30pm–1:30pm

Location: The Community Room

Keyboard Classes!

Day: **Tuesday** lunchtime

Time: 12:30pm—1:30pm

Location: The Community Room

Music Lessons have the Power!

Develops musical talent

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& concentration

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Newsletter for
Primary School
parents

Parent Line NSW

AUTUMN 2016

find us on



Parent Line NSW is a unique telephone and online counselling and support service for parents and carers. We cover issues with babies, children and young people up to 18 years of age, all over NSW. Our counsellors are professionally trained and specialise in working with families.

Only the best will do

Parent Line counsellors use research-based understanding of children and families together with proven parenting strategies to help parents develop more positive relationships with kids. We support parents to find strategies that best work for their family and we provide thousands of referrals every year to services all over New South Wales.

TOP 5

concerns in 2015

Last year we were most often asked about:

- 1 Child anxiety
- 2 Reducing parent/child conflict
- 3 Managing challenging behaviour
- 4 Managing parents' stress
- 5 Impact of parental conflict and separation on kids

Child development and learning

Many parents have concerns at times during the primary school years about their child's social development or learning skills. **Talking over concerns with a parenting counsellor can identify where problems might be occurring and we can offer referrals and/or parenting strategies to assist.** We can also talk about changes in a child's behaviour or character to help parents understand what may be happening for their child.

Tough conversations

The primary school years are filled with tough conversations parents need to have with kids. Some of these include:

- * Strangers and safety
- * Using technology
- * Sex education
- * Bullying
- * Grief



Parent Line counsellors are very familiar with these conversations and can help parents find the best ways to communicate concerns without making kids distressed or defensive. **Call us or jump online at www.parentline.org.au to chat to a counsellor.**

signs of a healthy family

Whilst every family is unique, researchers find there are common signs of healthy families:

- * Members are committed to one another
- * Families engage in positive communication
- * The family spends significant time together
- * Members show affection to one another
- * The family actively engages together to resolve crises (DeFrain 1999).

Our counsellors can help families develop these ways of being together.



"I just DON'T want to go!"

Our counsellors receive many calls from parents with this issue, and there are many reasons why children may not want to go to school. Our counsellors can discuss your family situation and what your child may be experiencing so that we can help you find some strategies that work.

1300 1300 52

7 days a week

info@parentline.org.au

www.parentline.org.au